

U.S. Application No. 10/625,794
Reply to Office Action dated August 14, 2006

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PATENT
450100-04667

OCT 17 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3, and 5-6 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are hereby amended. Claim 4 is hereby canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 18-20 and 22.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0048193 to Tanikawa et al. (hereinafter, merely "Tanikawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,325 to Kuriyama (hereinafter, merely "Kuriyama").

As understood by Applicant, Tanikawa relates to a nonvolatile memory including a control register for providing instructions as to basic operations such as writing, erasing, reading. A boosted voltage attainment detecting circuit detects whether a voltage boosted by a booster circuit has reached a desired level and a circuit which counts the time required to apply

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each of write and erase voltages. A circuit detects the completion of the writing or erasing. Respective operations are automatically advanced by simple setting of the operation instructions to the control register. After the completion of the operations, an end flag provided within the control register is set to notify the completion of the writing or erasing.

As understood by Applicant, Kuriyama relates to a semiconductor device that has a charge pumping circuit including plural stages of circuit portions connected in series. Each circuit portion has a transistor having a drain and gate connected to each other and a capacitor having a connection node at which one electrode of the capacitor is connected to the drain of the transistor in such a way that potentials to be applied to adjoining connection nodes of individual capacitors alternately attain a high level and a low level when the charge-pumping circuit is operating. When the charge-pumping circuit stops operating, each of the potentials of the connection nodes of the individual capacitors is fixed at a high level if an output voltage of the charge-pumping circuit is positive.

Claim 1 recites:

"A source-voltage-operated circuit comprising:

an operated circuit section operated according to a voltage supplied by a battery, said operated circuit section having:

a series circuit of a coil and a first switching device, and

a light-emitting diode connected parallel to said coil,

wherein when said first switching device is turned on, a current flows from said battery through said coil and said first switching device, and when said first switching device is turned off, a loop current flows through said coil and said light-emitting diode;

a control-voltage-supplying circuit section having a second switching device and a capacitor, said second switching device connected to a connection point of said coil and said first switching device for controlling a direction of a current from

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said coil to said capacitor, and said capacitor storing a portion of energy from said switching operation of said first switching device and outputting the resultant voltage as an operating voltage, the resultant voltage being higher than the voltage supplied by said battery;

a control circuit section operated according to the operating voltage for controlling the operation of said operated circuit section and stopping the operation of said operated circuit section when the operating voltage is decreased below a given reset voltage.” (Emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing has been found in Tanikawa or Kuriyama, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Tanikawa and Kuriyama disclose a charging pumping circuit applied for semiconductor, but they fail to disclose, a battery as a power source. The applied combination also fails to disclose or suggest a coil and switching device as a charging pumping circuit. Applicant submits that the combination also fails to teach or suggest a diode and a capacitor as a control-voltage supplying circuit section. Furthermore the applied combination also fails to teach or suggest an operated circuit section having an LED. Finally, the applied combination fails to teach or suggest the control circuit, all as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 6 is similar in scope and is therefore patentable for similar reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

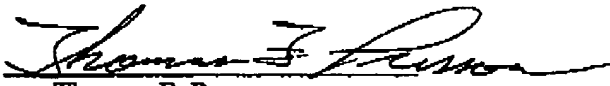
Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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